



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 08/973,293                      Docket No.                      : 13668/957701  
Inventor                      : SCHWARTZ, Robert G. et al.      Confirmation No.                      : 6722  
Filed                      : December 1, 1997                      Customer No.                      : 23838  
Art Unit                      : 3639  
Examiner                      : DIXON, Thomas A.  
For                      : SECURE POSTAGE PAYMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE AND ELECTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on July 6, 2006, the time for reply having been extended to October 6 by the concurrently-submitted petition for a two-month extension of time, please enter the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 12 of this paper.